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Near East and South Asia Review

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Supplement 4 July 1986

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4 July 1986

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	Near East and South Asia Review		25X′
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	4 July 1986	Page	_
Article	Afghanistan in May	1	25X′ 25X′
	Soviet Ground Forces carried most of the load in operations in May, reversing the trend in recent Afghan army bore the brunt in major offensives. probably was limited by the beginning of Ramad 7 May.	months when the Insurgent activity	25X′
	Some articles are preliminary views of a subject normally will be coordinated as appropriate with Occasionally an article will represent the views will be designated as noncoordinated views. Con authors, whose phone numbers are listed.	h other offices within CIA. of a single analyst; these items	

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Near East and		
South Asia Review		25X1
Article		
Afghanistan in May	:	25 X 1
In May, Soviet Ground Forces carried most of the	by elements of the Afghan 25th Infantry Division	
load in counterinsurgency operations, reversing the	from Gardeyz to reach Ali Kheyl. Soviet units	
trend in recent months when the Afghan army bore the brunt in major offensives. During the changeover	airlifted into the region on 15 May also encountered stiff resistance.	25 X 1
of leadership of the People's Democratic Party in late		25X1
April and early May, Soviet forces evidently took precautions to prevent the Afghan military from		
reacting forcefully to Babrak Karmal's replacement.	Additional Soviet forces landed in the area on 18	
Insurgent activity probably was limited by the beginning of Ramadan—the holy month of fasting—	May. On 21 May, Soviet ground forces broke contact with the insurgents and began returning to base.	25 X 1
which began on 7 May.		25X1
Clipped Wings		25 X 1
The Soviets tried to minimize the chances of violence		23X I
over the replacement on 4 May of Babrak Karmal as		0EV4
party leader.		25X1 25X1
		05)//
The US Embassy in Kabul commented that Soviet troops		25 X 1
were out in force in the capital during the change in		
leadership.		25X1 25X1
	ļ '	23 X I
Soviets Out Front	The Battle in Qandahar Province	25X1
The major Soviet/Afghan regime combat operation in		20/(1
May was centered in the Ali Kheyl area, where insurgents—primarily from the National Islamic		
Front—had been harassing an Afghan army garrison.		
Following several days of airstrikes, operations commenced on 14 May, with an unsuccessful attempt		
commenced on 14 way, with an unsuccessive attempt		
		05);;
1	Top Secret NESA NESAR 86-015CX	25 X 1
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In midmonth a battalion of 2S5 155-mm self-propelled guns that	males by the regime. Because of the negative impact of the decisions on civilian morale in Qandahar city,	25X
left its garrison for combat operations.	some insurgents suspect the originator was a government agent.	25X1 25)
	Lull of Ramadan Insurgent-initiated attacks throughout Afghanistan probably were limited somewhat by the onset of Ramadan early in May. Rocket attacks on Kabul	25X1
To stem infiltration, the Soviets are building a security belt around Qandahar similar to the one	increased during the month, according to the US Embassy, although the frequency and intensity were lower than in past years. The airport and the Dar ol Aman Palace areas appeared to have been the main	25 X 1
around Kabul. it will comprise three concentric circles of security posts.	targets of insurgent rockets.	25X
The outer ring will be manned by Soviet soldiers, the middle one by Afghan soldiers, and the innermost belt		25X1
by Afghan militia. insurgent forces have found it increasingly difficult to move in and out of Qandahar city,	According to the US Embassy in Kabul, the	25X 25X
although they manage to harass Soviet and Afghan positions nearly every day.	insurgents destroyed nearly 18 vehicles during a six-hour attack.	25)
Soviet and Afghan forces have intensified the campaign to ambush and interdict supply caravans		25X
The Soviets and Afghans have established new security outposts along routes		25>
normally used by insurgents. The interdiction effort has nearly doubled the cost of transporting supplies in		25 X 1
the province. To meet the increasing Soviet threat to insurgent supply lines, major insurgent commanders have agreed to contribute to a force of 200 men to assist in protecting the supply lines into Pakistan,	Outlook Reports on the planning for another large-scale offensive in the Nazian Valley in June—an attack postponed from May—indicate that Soviet ground	25X1
about in protecting the supply interine random,	units will once more be major participants, suggesting that the Soviets are not ready to give primary	25X
The guerrillas in Qandahar Province are trying to coordinate their responses to Soviet and regime moves against them. But,	responsibility for all major actions against the guerrillas to the Afghan army. The limited successes this year, in which Afghan infantry and armor units	25 X 1
some of the decisions taken by the insurgents have had unintended consequences. In particular, when the guerrillas tried to block sales of food and	have been the primary ground forces component, almost certainly are the result of the massive firepower supplied by Soviet artillery and combat	25>
fuel by local merchants to regime forces, the regime confiscated the items. In addition, the guerrillas suggestion to have civilians destroy draft exemption cards resulted in a major roundup of draft-eligible	aircraft.	25) 25)

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